

SAFETY ON THE LINE

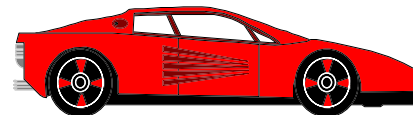
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“Sometimes a fool makes a good suggestion. So listen well.”

Nicolas Boileau (1636-1711)

Driven to Distraction? There are all kinds of possible distractions going on inside a vehicle: eating, smoking, talking, reading road maps, playing with the radio or CD, and other gadgets. People even read books and put on makeup while they drive. And what about all those cell phones! It is predicted that by the year 2000, 36 to 40 million Americans will be using cellular car phones, more than 25 million of those being car phones. Some cell phone safety design features are speed dial, speaker phones and voice-activated phones that help to leave one's hands free to drive. Studies show that the physical act of using a car phone is no less distracting than tuning a radio. However, a car phone's effect on a driver's attention - mental and perceptual processes - is much more disturbing. A *casual* social conversation (on a car phone) is probably no more distracting than talking to a passenger. However, an *intense (or complex)* business conversation could well divert a driver's attention to the point that cues of potential danger may be overlooked. Prior cellular phone experience appeared to have no effect. It is self-evident that someone talking on the telephone while driving doesn't have their attention fully focused upon the road. While studies have established a link between car phone use and driver distraction, no one has formally studied car phone use and traffic accident rates. The available data is insufficient to estimate the magnitude of the problem. Your best defense is not to have any other responsibilities when driving.



Some Safety Tips:

- Become **familiar** with how to use the phone and **practice** in the driveway using the different features
- Store frequently called numbers in phones memory to minimize dialing while driving
- **Assess** the traffic situation before placing or receiving calls



KSC & 45th SPACE WING SUPER SAFETY DAY JUNE 17, 1999



CPR Training



Training classes in Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) for NASA civil service and contractor employees now are being offered in the aerobics classroom of the new O&C Fitness Center on Friday mornings from 8:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. The training is open to civil servant and contractor employees; however, NASA can only pay for NASA civil servants. Contractors should arrange this training through their company's training departments. This training is voluntary and intended for those not requiring CPR certification for their job. To register for a class, call Gwen Lewis at 867-2737 and let her know the date you wish to attend.



Do you have questions, comments, or an article you would like to submit? Contact Marguerite or Alan at 867-3017/4558, fax number 867-3583, mail code EI-HF or e-mail them at "Safety on the Line" found in your global address list. Safety on the Line is also on the Web. Go to the KSC home page, click on KSC internal page, then find us under NASA/KSC news.